

A  
DESCRIPTION  
OF THE PROSPE-  
RITIE, STRENGTH,  
AND WISE GOVERNMENT  
of the vnited Prouinces of  
*the Netherlands.*

SIGNIFIED BY THE BATAVIAN  
VIRGIN, in her seat of vnitie.

WHEREIN IS RELATED THE WHOLE  
state of those countries at this present time.



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*See how by wisdom Hollands house doth flourish,  
And trust not Leopards craft that warre doth nourish.*

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*A Friend to his native Countrey.*



Od saue you *Batanian* gentlewoman, I am very glad to see you thus triumphantly set in your throne of freedome, it seemes the world goes better with you now then it did in times past.

*The Batanian gentlewoman.*

In deede (my good friend) it is true that it is otherwise with me now then it was heretofore: for now (God bethanked) I am in my first and pristin state.

*Friend.*

Is it better with you now (gentlewoman) then it was? and are you as you said in your former ancient state? and how vnderstand you that? I pray you tell me.

*Batania.*

My good friend, marke the particulars, as I shall set them downe plainly vnto you, and you shall easily vnderstand it, I was long since, in former time a free State; but after that, I fell

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into

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into great slauerie and bondage, and now at this present I am restored againe to my former liberty and free state. For when my first founders came hither into this free countrey, which at that time belonged not vnto any man in perticular, but onely vnto those that first tooke possession thereof, and inhabited the same (according to the Law of nature,) in this free place they built me this house, which was called the *Batavian* gouernment, and at this time the Holland Common-wealth, wherin I placed my seat or Throne, called freedome or liberty.

*Friend.*

Had you at the first no soueraigne Gouernour, that had the chiefe command ouer your house, and household?

*Batania.*

The gouernment of my house was committed vnto two States, chosén and appointed out of mine owne people and inhabitants; that is, the noblest and honourablest men amongst them, and the best and greatest Citizens and inhabitants of the same. These were the principall Commanders of my house and household, who for the better gouernment thereof, made certaine customes and lawes for the strengthening of peace therein, and had a great care ouer the same, for the preservation of the Common-wealth.

And in proceesse of time, there was a principall person (as a King) chosen out of those two States, who as the chiefeft officer or high Steward, had the principall command ouer it and the common-wealth.

*Friend.*

Then your forefathers in time past were gouerned after a princely manner by a chiefe Commander.

*Batania.*

Yea, Kings by name; as *Vromerus*, who was called the first *Batavian* King, who notwithstanding was but the chiefe man, amongst the principall persons of the Land, and had the first command, and chiefe authoritie thereof.

So were all the rest that succeeded him, Kings ouer my *Batavian* Land, but had more authority to giue their counsell and aduice for the gouernment thereof, then power to command  
and



*of the vnited Prouinces.*

and rule ouer it. For the other Rulers and States that were chosen out of the Nobilitie and Commons, had as much power or superintendance ouer the King, as the King had ouer them, who with him together ruled the Land. But the King had an vpper command, or highest power permitted him, but not by authority or power, of, or in himselfe: onely in regard and respect of his princely name he was obeyed, and his authority allowed with great reuerence and respect, and yet he himselfe neuertheless subject to the Lawes of the Land, as is ordinary in electiue, not hereditarie Kings.

*Friend.*

Hereby I perceiue, that your house ( called the *Batavian* Government ) from the very first originall thereof was a free Common-wealth, and your commonaltie, free people.

*Batania.*

We were neuer subject vnto any forraine Nations, but onely to our elected Gouvernour and States, together with the lawfull and probable Lawes, made for the good government thereof, whereunto every man willingly submitted himselfe. In this state we continued long time before the Romane Monarchie, and were vnited vnto the same, and by her liued in peace, although the Romans had the sole command and government of the greatest part of the world, and yet they were content to account of my forefathers, as their vnited friends; acknowledging my house to be a free State, and calling my household seruants the *Batavian* commonaltie; and when they had any warres, and were aided by vs therein, they called vs their fellowes, and companions, ( as *Iulius Caesar* did, ) and which is more, esteemed vs as their brethren, friends, and vnited neighbours, in regard of the great aide and strength they found at our hands, to helpe them in their need against their enemies.

*Friend.*

Then the Romans had no imperiall command ouer the *Batavian* Countrey, when they were Monarches of the world.

*Batania.*

No. For my forefathers of *Batania* ( according to their ancient

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cient Lawes) were still governed by their owne people, which continued above an hundred yeeres, during the Romane Monarchie, vntill such time as their friendship turned into deceit, and extreame oppression, seeking to rob and spoyle mee and my Land, with pretence to turne my freedome into slavery and bondage, contemning our vnity, and wholly forgetting the forepassed friendship and aide by vs formerly shewed, and done vnto them. For which cause my forefathers tooke armes in hand, and began a lawfull warre, for the defence and safeguard of mine honour and freedome, whereby the name of the Romans, in short time, was wholly driuen away, & cleane rooted out, wherein personally they neuer had any absolute authority nor government. For the which my *Batavian* people were so much honoured and esteemed of, that as then they were called and held to be the authors of the freedome and liberty of our neighbours, and other Princes, who likewise were vnder the subiection of the Romans: but I obtained my freedome againe, and after that continued long in my free state, and was governed by my two states of the Land, vntill the sauage Normans came and inuaded vs.

*Friend.*

Was it then at that time that you began to be governed by Earles?

*Batavia.*

I, but not as Soueraigne Gouvernours, but onely chosen as chiefe Commanders, to serue in stead of Iudges, wee subiecting our selues willingly vnder their command, esteeming and holding them worthie to be our Protectors, and to haue the superintendance ouer our *Batavian* government, but had no power (by authority) to alter the Lawes and customes, nor to raise tolles, nor impositions, without the consent and good will of the two States, but were bound by oath to defend and maintaine the Lawes and priuiledges of the Land, and to subiect themselves thereto.

*Friend.*

Whereby it appeareth that neuer any Prince nor Earle had Soueraignty, or chiefe power alone, ouer you and your house?

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*Batania.*

No: for in the time of the Earles, there haue been some of them that by their bad gouernment and life, became oppressors of the Lawes and customes of the Land, and for that cause their authority was misliked, and they put out of their command. As it happened to the Ladie *Iacobe*, Countesse of Holland, from whom because of her disorders, and wilfulnesse in her gouernment, against the priuiledges of the Land. The command ouer my house was taken away, and transported vnto *Philp* Duke of Burgundie, which *Batavian* gouernment in proesse of time, and by marriages, was changed and fell into the house of Austria, and after that to *Charles* the first, Emperour of Rome, (who with the good will and voices of all the States of my house) made ouer the *Batavian* Principality vnto his sonne *Philp*, certifying him of my priuiledges, and the nature of my subiects addicted vnto rest and freedome, with an earnest charge and warning giuen him, to haue a great regard and respect of the *Batavian* Common-wealth, and to gouerne them with a mild and fatherly affection: for that he esteemed the same to be the best branch of his Crowne, which hee with Princely words and oathes promised to performe; but the contract being made, and he hauing the authority in his hands, wee straight found a great alteration in our *Batavian* house; for that he being a Spaniard, both by birth and conditions, a great Prince, and very powerfull, and had the Soueraigne command ouer many Kingdomes, and Principalities, did not respect our *Batavian* liberty, nor once esteemed our priuiledges, but contrary to his promise, brake his Princely oath.

*Friend.*

By this meanes your free State was turned into a bondage.

*Batania.*

That is true, by this meanes my troubles began. For in stead of naturall borne Princes to protect my house, I got strange outlandish wasters and destroyers thereof, who therein made a fearfull stir, with most strange and great exactions, cruelties, and tyrannies ouer our liues and goods; to the end he might procure the breaking of the ancient authority of my priuiledges,

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ledges, the weakening of my lawes, and the abolishing of my liberty: But I seeing the beginning of my ouerthrow, the weake condition of my house, and the subuersion of my people, was compelled to seeke meanes for the preservation of my maidenly liberty, against those that sought to spoyle and be-reauē me thereof; but finding my selfe in a manner very weak, by reason that diuers of my principall household seruants fled from me, and that I was almost cleane spoyled of my household stuffe, yea and my seat very neere taken from vnder me, which I had so long held and enioyed from my ancestors, for that the feet thereof were almost drawne and broken each from the other; whereby in a manner I sat so wagling, that I could not deuise how I should sit faster, by reason of my weake estate. But taking courage, I made meanes vnto my neighbours for aide; but where I expected security and support, (ere I was aware) I had like to haue been cleane spoyled: for by the aide that was sent me, my house, Court, and Throne, was rather in worse case then it was before.

Whereupon my principall officers were by necessity compelled to seeke to marrie mee vnto some one, that by his aide they might haue meanes to helpe me and themselves. But not long before I had had a good example set before mine eyes, of another maide, one of my neighbours, who by her welwillers was perswaded to *Hande-werpe*, that is, to betroth her selfe vnto him that sought to bring her to *Val-loos*, that is, to the destruction of her and all her people.

This made me (I say) to goe to my crosse neighbour, (who also was esteemed a maide) to get some aide of her, to helpe to fasten my Seate, and thereby to hold a fit place to sit in; for without that, they pretended to haue broken downe my *Batanian* house, and to haue made a bridge therof at their pleasure, to haue gone ouer to my neighbours, thereby to obtaine the like dominion and power ouer them; and their meaning also was, vpon the old foundations and ruines of my *Batanian* house, to erect and build vp a new Spanish regiment, and to take my seate from me, and to turne it cleane ouer, as if I had had no voyce nor command therein: which made some of my fugitiue

fugitive friends and welwillers to looke backe, and to stirre vp my neighbours, who as then vpheld and maintained me in my right, against those that thought to haue thrust mee cleane out of it, and by my ouerthrow to haue ouer-runne my neighbors, which was done by the commandement of that Spanish Earle, who as a fatherly protector was placed ouer me, according to his oath and promise to defend my maidenlike honour: but he sought by strange ruffians to violate mine honour, to ruinate my house and Court, ( which notwithstanding was one of his fairest palaces) and also my household seruants, esteeming all as nothing; and which is more, sought to make my people slaues, without once respecting my *Batavian* state, which is a Democraticke gouernment. By this meanes ( I say ) hath hee by his vnspokeable tyrannicall gouernment, and vnlawfull vsurpation, lost the rule and pretended right ( by my old customes and ancient priuiledges ) that he had, by the aide and helpe of my neighbours and friends that stood in doubt of further mischiefes to come, aided by the power of the principall and chiefe Iudge of Iudges, who after 40. yeeres troubles, hath reduced and placed me in my former state of ancient freedome.

*Friend.*

Gentlewoman, you haue now shewed me the state of your old freedome, and withal of your troubles forepassed, whereof you say you are now freed. From hence forth therefore shew your maidenlike wisedome, by calling to remembrance things past, wisely to consider of things present, & well to foresee that which is to come, and which concerneth you neere. Therefore let not your forepassed blowes ( by a deceitfull bright sunne-shining time ) so soone be forgotten. For that many times after faire weather commeth a storme, you doe well to sit at your doore, to see whether it be cleere weather abroad; for in truth for these 40. yeeres together you haue endured many, and too many stormie winds, mightie raines, hailes, thunders, lightnings, and fierie flames.

*Batania.*

*Erasmus* saith very well and truly, that industrious labour makes a man rich. So haue I ( by Gods helpe ) and industrious labour,

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labour, with defensiu warre ouercome and withstood the great force and power of my tyrannous enimie, and such as haue by him been ouercome, and forced to flee their countrey, and to liue like strangers in other countreyes; I haue with their wiues, children, and goods receiued into my house, and giuen them lodging therein. Whereby I got both thanks and furtherance, which to him was a weakening and enfeebling, and to me a strengthening and fortification, which happened most hereabouts. But he fearing further mischief, (perceiuing my fortunate proceedings,) was forced to seeke to me, (who at the first he contemned and esteemed of no account; yea in a manner thought verily to bee his owne) to make peace with him, and to acknowledge me to be a free State, without once pretending to haue any right of gouernment ouer mee, and so I once againe got my long contentions (and almost cleane lost) freedome into my hands. By the acknowledging and agreement of my enemies themselues, who iudged it to bee my lawfull right, which in truth happened and came to passe by an accusation of his owne conscience, and a compulsiue necessitie, possessed with a desperate hope of neuer to ouercome me. These were the speciall things that moued him thereunto, and not because hee desired peace, nor for any good will that hee bare vnto the welfare of my house, and household seruants. Neuerthelesse, I haue recovered mine ancient freedome, and hope to continue in this my maidenlike state, by his aide and powerfull helpe that hath seene my misery, and hath euidently in the sight of all the world holpen and freed mee from the Spanish yoke.

*Friend.*

God be praised, thanked, and glorified therefore, and to him must you pray, and in him firmly trust. But it is commonly said, that where there is no care, there is no feare: for while that you are now free and in good estate, you must bee carefull for your selfe and your household, and that in twofold manner:

First, to looke well about you, that you be not deceiued nor over-runne by those from whom you haue been deliuered, and haue freed your selfe from their bondage, because they haue  
done

done that they did vpon meere necessity, and not for any loue they bare to you.

Secondly, that you must bee prouident to provide for that which is needfull and necessarie for you in time of need, that in time of want you run not to borrow corne of your neighbours to feed your geese withall: for a learned man wrote not in vaine, when he said, Happie is that Land, which in time of peace thinketh vpon warre. And another learned Philosopher teacheth vs, that a man must not trust his reconciled enemy too much: therefore now you sit quietly and freely in your house and possessions, it standeth you vpon to furnish your house well with 4. most necessarie things, wherein the whole, and all the State thereof consisteth.

First, you must haue true, trustie, and prouident household seruants, such as seeke not their owne good, but the profit of the common State, and those that will not lightly by themselves take anything in hand, that may bee burthensome and hurtfull to the Common-wealth, and the subjects thereof.

Secondly, fir household stufte, such as is honest, necessarie, seruiceable and furtherly in a house, to bee vsed for the seruice of the Common-wealth.

Thirdly, good prouision of such things, as in such a house (as yours is) are most necessarie and conuenient, as Chests, Ware-houses, and sellers, well furnished.

Fourthly, and lastly, you must specially bee provided of that wherewith you may doe most, and which by men is most desired, for that thereby you may get whatsoeuer you will, yea and almost as much as you will.

All this is needfull for you to doe, whereof you are to haue a great care to bee provided, that against an assault, or a hard and bad time, you may helpe your selfe, by your selfe.

Also it is conuenient for the female kind (specially a free maide as you are,) not to haue too much conuersation with strange men, specially with such as in times past sought to violate your chastitie; yet I doubt not of your good behauour in any wise, because you haue already withstood many assaults, and by meanes of your honest minde and courage,



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haue hitherto ouercome all stormes whatsoeuer.

*Batavia.*

My good friend, I am warned to bee watchfull, but I hope God will preserue and defend both me and my household.

For the first, I haue true and prouident household seruants, in my *Batavian* dominion, (according to the ancient manner) first, an ouerseer of the house, (called father of the Countrey,) then my two States, the noblest persons of the Land, and the men of greatest account among the Commons, who haue all the care, and speciall charge of the state of my house, both in peace and warre. Secondly, I haue conuenient and profitable household stuffe, as good counsell, and vpriight dealing, wherewith my *Batavian* house is furnished, as with a heavenly and bright shining light, thereby to behold things past, to marke things present, and to foresee things to come. The other are as instruments in needfull and profitable things, to serue the state of the Land, (each one according to his qualitie and condition) when time shall require. Thirdly, (God bee praised) my house is well provided, (and daily more and more shall be) of that which shall serue for the Common-wealth, and such as my householding requireth. First, my Chests and Wardrops are well furnished with apparell of all sorts; that is, of good iron dublets, steele gloues, stiffe shining collars, with the appurtenances, all faire and well kept, that when I haue need of them they are readie at hand; my warehouses are well provided of fireage, which is made of black wood coales, brimstone, & saltpeter, therewith easily to set fire on my turfe, which are round, and as hard as iron, and great heauie fiery arrowes, wherewith to make a good fire against winter and hard frosts. And for my sellars, I haue yet a great many brasse vessels therein, to welcome such as come to visit me, honourably; and in diuers cages I haue many old geese, that when there is a faire, I may set some of them before my friends to welcome them withall. Now for that wherewith I can doe most, (which is money) I haue my vnited Commons, which are soure faithfull and trustie labourers; that is, Husbandmen, Burgers of townes, Saylors, and Souldiers, (who at this time for a while are at their rest,



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rest, and liue quietly.) These are all fast bound together with the band of vnitie, and are they that at all times wil make provision for my *Baranian* house, and Hollands garden, whatsoever I shall want. For my Husbandmen at this present are well provided of corne, and other necessaries, and sell it as deare, almost, as they will or can, which also is apparant by the decking of his wife and children with gold and siluer which they daily weare. The townesmen also build great and high houses, which within are richly furnished with excellent faire household stufte and moueables; as Tapistrie, siluer, and guilt plate, and hee himselfe, and his wife and children, richly apparelled and smugd vp in silke and veluet, laid on with gold and siluer lace, making great bankets; all which are signes of prosperity, and are every one industrious to maintaine themselves in good estate; some by vsurie, others by trade at home, and some by merchandising, every man struing not to bee the least amongst the rest. The Sailor saileth farre and wide for strange merchandize; and if a rouer sets vpon him at sea, hee can play his part so well, that he shall get nothing at his hands; and many times lookes himselfe for such a prize, so that it oft falleth out that he can saile with a by-legger, better then he doth when he saileth before the winde. But the Souldier likes not of this sleepe calme weather, hee rather desires to bee rustling in the field, to shew himselfe a gallant. But the other three are very rich, and haue great meanes to helpe me, (I could not know it so well, but that they by their superfluitie makes it manifest to all men) for which cause I and my household are bound to haue a great care for them, and the Common wealth, for that they without me, and I without them, would bee a meanes to overthrow both me and my house, and also the commonaltie, and every one of them in their perticular states would come to nothing. For if the band of vnitie should breake, or by contention become loose, it would bee their destruction, and my ouerthrow out of my Throne.

*Friend.*

I would faine see the pales of your gardens, and the manner of building about your house, or else of you heare the discourse

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course of the whole situation thereof, while you are now in a free state.

*Batania.*

My Holland garden is bordered about with a willow hedge or hurdle, called *Fidelity*; at the entry whereof there is a stile, ouer the which my watchfull (many eyed Lion) with his two forefeet stands looking, there to hold sharpe watch. Then within, before the stile, and behinde the Lion, standeth a high *Orange* tree, with a young sprig or branch at the foot thereof, both coming out of an old root of a tree that hath been cut downe: round about this tree there is a root planted, called *Gods blessing*. In the middle of the garden there standeth an old high strong *Piramides*, called *Priniledge*, closed about with a medicinable graft, called *Gods grace*. This garden is made of, and filled vp with good Holland earth, out of the which the Spanish vnfruitfull power is wholly rooted vp; and therefore in, and round about it there groweth *Good will*, *Good courage*; *Heart hearbe*; *Care seede*: (*Ladie marke*) also, *Golden flowers*, *Siluer hearbes*, *Lance hearbes*, *Knights spurres*, *Horse-mens herbe*, *Gun hearbe*, and much *Honour* and *Commendation*.

*Friend.*

Is not your garden somtimes weeded and cleansed of weeds and hurtfull plants?

*Batania.*

Yea: for we were wont in times past to bee much troubled with great quantities of weedes; as with *Force hearbe*, *Death hearbe*, *Catching roote*, *Fear hearbe*, *Pine apples*, *Blood herbe*, *Fier hearbe*, *Blacke hearbe*, and *Bitter gall nuts*. But necessitie, and my household seruants, appointed two officers to looke vnto it, (which were *Reason* and *Power*) each of them, as their turnes came, to weede it; for if it were not for these weeders, sometimes there would some weeds grow vp in a nights space before the Sun riseth; as *Romish thistle*, *Falfe lilies*, *Fox hearbe*, *Strife flowers*, and *After-hurt*. For not many yeers since, there grew a filthie hearb in my garden, called the *Dinels Nay-thrid*, and a hearbe called *Dinels-beet*, which stanke all ouer the garden, being of such a nature, that whosoeuer eate it, it made him enuious, and contentious; for it is of the kind of the seed

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of the apple whereof *Eua* and *Adam* ate in Paradise, which then presently caused great contention betweene God and them, and so it did now also; for whosoever did eate thereof, thought that they were as wise as God, and knew all things, and for that cause thinking themselves to be wise in their own conceits, they fell at strife with their neighbours; but reason weeded out as much thereof as hee could, and in stead thereof planted a root called *Part strife*, which in time will grow to be a great hearbe, but the diuels *Nay-brid*, ran almost cleane through the whole garden, and hath made the *Orange tree* for certaine yeers to stand stil at a bay, and not to blossome, which maketh many heere amongst vs to long for some of his fruit, if it were to be had; but the earth of my garden is so rich and fruitful, that if once a hot Spanish sun-shine should fall thereon, (after the which a *Batavian* stroke-raine vlieth to follow) we should presently see the blossomes and fruit of the *Orange tree* shew forth themselves. Neuertheles we haue *Oranges* for a pleasant sawce, and a good saueur daily in my kitchin, and also for a refreshing we haue the faire *Orange lily*, and the *Roselike thistle flower*, which is placed properly in severall beds in my garden.

Friend.

Now I haue heard the manner of the situation of your garden: let me I pray you heare from you, what kind of building you haue in your house?

*Batavian.*

The foundation of my house is named *Vnity*: the principals thereof are made of great straight timber, lined and daubed with good vnited Netherlandish stones, the Hall thereof called the *Batavian* gouernment, is beautified with eight faire cleere windowes, and in the middle of them all standeth one specially, as a principall shield beautifying the same. The rooffe of the house is couered ouer with faire shining shels, which couer is called *Hardinesse*. The entrie or gate thereof is named *Victory*: the posts and top of it are couered ouer with greene hearbes, in the middle whereof my seate standeth, called *Freedom*; made of firme ground wood: and about all the rest the signe of my house is *Emanuel*. Now my friend, you haue heard

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and vnderstood the manner and forme of my house and garden, wherein at this present I haue and hold my free habitation; which, of almost a desperate lost inheritance, I haue made free againe, more by honest meanes, and true and lawfull right, then by forcible craftinesse, although my ill willers behind my backe report and say, that I decke my selfe with strange feathers, when as they notwithstanding lurke and hide themselves vnder my wings; neuerthelessse I haue striven as much for their freedoms, as I haue done for mine owne naturall and good peoples liberty.

*Friend.*

✓ Gendetwoman, Doe you perceiue that which I see there, which is a strange show, it seemeth to bee a twin, or a body of two kindes, whereof the one halfe before seemeth to laugh friendly vpon you, with a sweet womanlike face; and the other halfe behinde, is armed with a cruell souldiers looke, and hath a monstrous great beast by him, wherein I take no pleasure,

*Batania.*

This partie hath been heere some few yeeres since, and brought that beast with him into our *Batanian* house; but what shall I doe, seeing he lookes so smilingly vpon me, whether it be in outward shew, or in action, I will not as yet quarrell with him and mistrust him, before he leaues laughing, and then I will see, (and also aske him) what hee meaneth to doe, that he commeth here into my garden with such a hinder part, and so faire and pleasant a forepart.

*Friend.*

Doe you not thinke that he can soone turne that laughing countenance behind him from you, and place the bitter looke before: It was wont to be the Italian manner, and the Spanish custome: see you not that hee hath turned the hinder part of his face towards a troupe of souldiers, and the forepart towards you; the while that he with outward flearing face lookes on you: with the hinder part hee doth expect your ouerthrow; therefore it is fit that the Lion should take good heed vnto him,

*Batania.*

But (my friend) doe you know what manner of man this is,  
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and doe you know the beast well? I have long time cast mine eyes thereon: let me heare what your iudgement is of him, seeing you shew your selfe to bee so carefull for me.

*Friend.*

The happinesse of your state makes mee so carefull for you, but in my iudgment this man is one of the foure sorts or kinds of *Hermaphrodites*, (which are both men and women,) which is one of the worst kind of creatures that are living vpon the earth, if they may (without restraint) vse and shew forth their nature. For they can suffer themselves to be dealt withall in nature of weake and effeminate women, with faire shewes, and sweet words to deceiue withall; and as a woman by nature is milde, they can bring their subtil practises, and deceitfull charmes to passe, which if they effect not in two or three yeeres, they doe it in 6. or 8. and sometimes in 10. or twelue.

Againe, these *Hermaphrodites* (when they list) can bee like cruell and sturdie men, and can as well by force as by craft bring many things to passe, for they are without all measure wicked and hollow hearted.

Which for you (being a maide) is very dangerous, for thinking to see a womanlike face, and to heare an effeminate voyce, you should with the turning of an hand fall into a snare, and be deflowred, whereby your most noble and great fame should be ouerthrowne, and your praise-worthie name cleane defaced.

*Batavia*, this is my iudgement, and a forewarning for you concerning this person, and where you thinke this great sweet shining nosegay to be a Palme branch, it is not so; for it is a branch of a hearbe called *Munkes hood*, a venomous hearbe, which heretofore was rooted out of your garden, which hee hath taken vp againe, therewith to bring you at length into a sound sleepe.

*Batavia.*

What thinke you of that monstrous beast, what beast, and of what kinde and nature is it?

*Friend.*

That may well and easily be scene and iudged by the speckled

### *A Description of the prosperity*

led skin that it hath, which is like a *Nay-ed* or patche *Monkes* gowne; and therefore I thinke that it is naturally a *Leopard*, which is a greedie blood sucking beast, begotten of a *Lionesse*, by a *Panther*; and therefore it is called by a double signifying name, a *Leopard*. This beast although it is brought forth by a *shee Lion*, yet it is most greedie and cruelly bent to seeke the destruction of the male *Lion*: but as it is bloodily minded, so it is subtil and craftie, specially to intrap his greatest enemy the *Lion*, therby to fall vpon him and to destroy him: to the which end he is skilfull how to make double holes, one aboue the other, which run both into one, being wide aboue, and narrow or strait in the middle, whereinto he runneth, to get the *Lion* (following him) betweene them both, and so to entangle himselfe therein; in the meane time the *Leopard* leapes out at the other hole, and falleth vpon the backe of the *Lion*, for by that meanes the *Lion* cannot vse his strength against him; and so he sheweth his deceitfull nature and condition, which by subtiltie he practiseth and bringeth to passe.

And yet at other times he hath shewed other *Leopards* tricks vpon the *African Apes*, and *West-Indian Monkeyes*: for vpon a time when hee spied many of them together, hee made as though he had been dead, or asleepe; in the meane time the *Apes* and *Monkeyes* came without feare out of their holes, (thinking to be free & out of doubt) and were very ioyful, and played many apish toyes one with the other, not doubting any thing, nor once so much as dreaming of the rising vp againe of their slumbring enemy, who like a *Leopard* lay lurking, and seeing time fit and conuenient, when those beasts were vnarmed, and without feare, he rose vp out of his counterfeite slumber, and falling vpon them, deuoured and tare in sunder the most part of them. This (Gentlewoman) serueth also for a warning to you: for not long since, I heard you say, that you yet haue many old geese for prouision for your kitchen, whose cages you are to looke well to, lest this *Leopard* with craftie baytes and force comes not suddenly and deuoureth them, as he hath already deuoured many *Lions* and *Monkeyes*, and the same would hee doe vnto your owne person also, if hee had

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had the meanes according to his will.

I meane this leering suiter, who with a craftie dissembling manner of suite, though not openly, seeking to get as neere vnto you as he can, as you may perceiue by his entry into *Gulicke*, and *Cleaueland*, and from thence to *Marke*, and meaneth not to leaue so, vntill he hath gotten something that may further his pretence for the warre, not by skirmishes, thereby to set forth your honour the more (which hee thinketh before this time to haue sufficiently tried) but by long and continuall policie in the end to lay hold vpon you by force.

For he accounts you already to bee his owne, although neuerthelesse (of meere necessity) hee did acknowledge you to be a free State.

But as he knoweth the nature of diuers slaues whom he hath vnder his subiection, and perceiues well that hee must not vse them one like another, to keepe them in bondage, and to get more, he hath therein a speciall watch vpon you, for the *Angolish*, *Santomish*, and *Guineian* Moores, were with great cruelty made his slaues, and with seueritie held in bondage. Whereas the *Brazilian* Nation were by deceit and policy bereaued of their freedome, and made his, and by compulsion holden slaues.

Now marke well Gentlewoman; at the first hee fought to you, now he begins to worke otherwise: in time past he began it by cruel *Alua*, whereby he put you into so great a feare, that hee was forced to call backe his executioner, for your people were so wilde, that they from himselfe (as the author of the execution) got a discharge of him, so that thereupon came a great *Commander*, with a pardon for your obstinacie towards him, who ministred such Spanish figs (called pardons) that thereby you were almost choaked in the mier, and many of you died. After him came *Don Iohn de Austria*, to pacifie you, who at first seemed somewhat to encline to a peace, but in short time after he made an uproare amongst you againe. For that cause there was a strange present sent (but yet for more furtherance to his intent.) which was an Italian *Parma*. But perceiuing that it was too sweet for your taste, and not liked



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of, he let the *Parmasan* rot, and began to come vpon you with a hastie *Duch-Earst*: but because your *Batanians* are milde of nature, and can see farre, hee tooke no pleasure in such *Ernst* proceeding: then hee sent a red shining Spirituall man, that should make *Albright*, and cleare, thinking to overcome your person, and the *Batanian* gouernment with his *Claer Imaginious* wit and behauiour, which he put in practise; but all in vaine: after that he came with craftie *Spinners*, (and now with leering *Leopards*) but the *Spinners* webbe was too weake to catch you in: for that cause he spread another *Nay-d*, or broad net, which hee cast ouer your head; but it is so loose and so wide, that you can see cleerely through it, vnlesse that the shew of the nose gay should make your head so diffie, that by means of the venomous smel thereof, you should fall asleepe, and that is it which this leering *Leopard* looks for: to bring you first to the *Brasilian* slauerie, then to deale with you as with the *Guineans*; and lastly, with the *West-indians*. Therefore preserue your freedome, and also shew that you are free; let not others appoint your lawes concerning that which toucheth you, for the preseruatiō of your house, and the defending of your next neighbours, which concerneth your selfe much, for which this *Leopard* hath long leered (Shipper looke out.)

*Batania.*

My good friend, wee are well acquainted in my house with the nature and conditions of this *Leopard*, we haue often heard his howling in our garden, but yet we belecue him not. To that end my many waking eied *Lion* stands before the stile and looks out; and this *Leopard* must not thinke that he is in *West-India*; for in stead of *Monkeys*, I would send great store of *Grashoppers* after him, which are easily to bee found in my garden; and I haue nests, yea whole regiments of *swift flies*, (*a fig for the Spanish flies*) which nestle vnder my *Orange tree*, which with their sharpe pricking *Angls*, will so pricke and sting him through his speckled skinne, that you shall heare him howle into *Spaine*, to call for helpe. But my water-fowles (that are very cunning in swimming) would so well watch the coasts and hauens there, that not one *Leopard* (which are but *Flint-*

*ter*



*of the united Provinces.*

ver in the water) shal not dare to thrust their heads out of their holds, for my water-fowles are very sharply set against the *Leopards*, because at other times he hath often taken their eggs out of their nests, and puld away many of their feathers, and hath cut many of them short, sometimes when they were wont with great danger to swimme over the Spanish seas, into the Spanish hauens, which they yet remember well, and can better reuenge themselves then the *Monkeys*. For first my *Grashoppers* for the most part of them, are old *Leapers*, that haue good skill to leape vpon the water-sides, and the hard land, as they in times past did vpon Turenholt *Heath*, and Newport sea-strand: but since that time they haue brought forth many young ones, who are well learned and instructed by the old ones, and can match the flies well enough, who also are old and well experienced; for they were wont in times past, lustily to flie vpon the Canary, and S. *Thomas Suger*; and also vpon the figs and reasons of *Calis malis*, which was good meate for them; but my water-fowles are so swift in flying, that their nimbleness is known in East-India, where they at other times haue lustily flowne vpon their Nutmeg blossomes, and there left the smell and sauour of the Netherlands *Mateline*, whereat they did not greatly reioyce; yea they are so quicke and strong in flight, that they flie vp through strange water and waies to *Haemsche-kercke*, there to hold the *Tubile*, and they bite so sore, that there is no Spanish *Nut* but they will bite it in peeces, how hard soeuer it be. In swimming also they are very craftie, and stout, specially vpon a Spanish fleet, to bee masters of it with a small power, whereby in Spaine they are called water-Diuels, (without once remembring that God is their Pilot) And though this *Leopard* is a great enemie to the *Lions*, wherof he hath deceiued and taken many, yet he hath not found the meanes to beguile them all, as it appeareth; for in my *Batanian* house, there standeth or sitteth yet seuen that lookes out at the window:

1 First, my *Hollands rampant Lion*:

*Who although he doth neere leane climbing fill,  
Be's not so high as he would by his will,*

*W. a.*

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- 2 Next him the *Zelands* swimming *Lion* stands :

*Who also bath a head and lues thereby,*

*And for the Libard careth not a flie.*

For although he hath swome long time, he is not yet drowned, if occasion once serued he would make the *Leopard* dance vpon the water, but it should be no apish dance.

- 3 In a higher window there stands a *Gelders* *Lion*.

*This holds a place iust in the Libards way,*

*And when he thinkes to passe, will make him stay.*

- 4 In the window beneath him there are two *Freeceland* *Lions* readie to run;

*Not for to run away out of his sight,*

*But t' hinder his pretence to his despight.*

- 5 Then there is two other *Lions*, each of them in a window apart, whereof the one,

*Stands not in Ouer Isel t' haue a sight*

*Of leering Libard, but with him to fight.*

- 6 In the other window is the *Zuispen* *Lion*:

*Which if the Libard should begin to baul,*

*Would lustily with's clawes vpon him fall.*

- 7 In a high window at the vpper part of my house:

*The lustie, strong, and valiant Vtrechts Knight,*

*Doth watch, and hath the Libard still in sight.*

And in the vpper part of my house:

*Th' East Friesland quicke sight Eagle looks about,*

*Wish's wings abroad to see how things fall out.*

And how high soeuer hee seemes to sit, yet if the *Leopard* begins once to play his part, he would soon flie vpon his back: for it is most certaine, that all of them together, and euery one of them particularly is well acquainted with the blood-thirstinesse, cruelty, and craftinesse of the *Leopard*; and haue a regard to what end he comes thus leering hereabout, euery one of them thinking that he leereth vpon him; and therefore they all stand vpon their guard, and would rather willingly leape vpon him, then suffer him to lay hold on them.

*Friend.*

I am of the same opinion also, *Gentlewoman*, and I thinke that

that all your foure men, whom you tearme your trustie husband men, before you should bee throwne downe, would rather for a time leaue their tilling the land, seafaring and merchandising, and set their wiues on worke for the vpholding of your person, and they themselues with the Souldiers, (whom they would soone raise out of their sleep) would march against the *Leopard*, for the defence of your *Batavian* gouernment, and the keeping of the Hollands garden: yea, & before that you for want of meanes, or by restraint should be forced to leaue your seat of freedome, your Commons would rather labor for you, till they sweat blood, and yet too great toles and heauie burthens are cumbersome to labouring men; but the loue they beare to you, and the hope they haue of their happinesse by your freedome, would make them forget the paines they take, for the furtherance of the Common-wealth: but the Husbandmen, Sea-faring men, and Citizens, altogether with one consent, (to bring their purpose the better to effect) wish that the Souldier also were awake with them. For a common busshen seems a common ease, but an assured common rest & quietnes is better, although your men apply themselues to the time. For which cause, willing labourers that are tied together in the bands of vnity, deserue some furtherance, and for that you are all their naturall mother, it learnes euery one both great and small, together and apart, to shew their good wils and duties vnto you in that respect.

That is true, for my State is costly to beare all the charges that are necessarily to be laid out, specially now I am set againe in my free Seate; therefore I would, if I could, bring it so to passe, that no man should haue any cause to finde fault, thereby to make all man free in our garden.

Then it is requisite and very needfull to haue a good regard that the *Leopard* makes no double holes for the *Lion*, that you need not stand in doubt at what hole to watch for him, and also to looke well to that double face, and to haue an eye to the troupe of men that standes younder, for it seemeth that they are

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at a stand, and would bee gone away: but me thinkes rather that they encrease and seeme to come neerer; and in the meane time this forepart giueth you a faire smiling countenance, and the hinder part is for their furtherance; and therefore a farre off they assemble speedily and hold together.

*Batania.*

Therefore we will commend the watch to our chiefe watchman *Emanuel*, and commit the charge of our house to him, and altogether from henceforth will be vigilant, and looke well to the craftie fetches of the *Leopard*; for if I were sure that hee would leeringly come too neere mee, and that his face would turne about, I would presently let my *Lion* loose to flie vpon the *Leopard*, and wake my Souldier, to heare that marshall face, who thinketh that he that slumbreth is fast asleepe, but the noise would soone awake him.

*Distrust and watch th'emie to withstand,  
Concord and faithfulnessse in Towne and Land,  
Are weapons sure and strong:  
But before all these things, vpon him call,  
And chiefly trust in him that can doe all  
By's power, and right thy wrong.*

I.

**B***Atanian Virgin faire,  
That sits in freedomes chaire,  
Victoriously and well:  
Looke to thy enemy,  
That on thee casts his eye.  
Beware of Libard fell.*

II.

*Where false loue cannot win,  
To hate thee they begin,  
For when loue waxeth cold,  
Then hatred for good will,  
Makes them seeke thee to kill.  
Trust not the Libard bold.*

*of the united Provinces.*

III.

*Sowre sauce distasts sweet meate.  
Craft sh'upper hand doth get.  
Rouenge breakes peaces lawes.  
The thing that's not straight wonnes,  
May chance in time be done.  
Keepe out the Libards clawes.*

IV.

*He that first bragd of thee,  
That thou his owne should be,  
But nothing thereby got.  
After long warre seemes meeke,  
and maketh shew to seeke  
Thy lone. Belcene him not.*

V.

*Though he said thou shouldst haue,  
Thy liberty, and gaue  
Consent to't in his need.  
He seekes to spoyle thee now,  
If that he could tell how.  
Of Libards wiles take heed.*

VI.

*Thy true lone holdes him backe,  
Thy trustie friends doe make  
Him feare, and therefore hee,  
T' intrap thee if he may  
Doth lorde. Wherefore I say,  
Of him still warie be.*

VII.

*Fight in thy friends defence,  
If he will not goe thence  
In time, fith he doth so,  
Torments them, for thy sake,  
Renenge their wrong, and make  
Him out the field to goe.*

*Faire*

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VIII.

*Faire Hollands Princely Dame,*

*Maintains thy ancient fame,*

*Be not at his command:*

*Although 't is his intent.*

*Doe nought thou must repent.*

*Gainst Libard boldly stand,*

Printed somewhere in the *Baranian* Land,  
My name if you desire to vnderstand:  
It is, (as men me commonly doe call,)  
The Pleasant, Rich, and Famous *Hollands* Hall.

FINIS.

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